

**Statement at the 78th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 109: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
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As Prepared

Thank you, Chair.

It has long been recognized by the United Nations that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations. Although the terrorism landscape has evolved over the years, the human suffering caused by terrorism and violent extremism remains the same - tragic and profound. The attack in Ankara just yesterday

foreign terrorist fighters to countries of origin in the future. The United States stands ready to assist Member States in their efforts on this front.

While recognizing the advancements we have made as an international community to address terrorism, we also must recognize that there remains much to be done. We should remain united in our collective efforts to prevent and counter the rising and changing threat posed by Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists or “REMVEs.” REMVE actors target religious and racial minorities, immigrants, women and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other perceived enemies. Many attacks that are categorized as REMVE are inspired by transnational, white supremacist movements. We consider REMVE to be one of the most pressing counterterrorism challenges facing the international community today due to loose, leaderless networks and the ease of access to REMVE propaganda - online and offline - that can mobilize and radicalize followers to violence.

We should also commit to addressing the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, including terrorist radicalization, recruitment, mobilization, planning and operations. The speed at which technologies – such as generative artificial intelligence - are evolving presents a real challenge which requires an innovative and comprehensive approach. In addition to *countering* terrorism online, we should also focus on *preventing* it by cultivating critical thinking skills, media literacy, and online public safety awareness. These efforts can help build resilience against terrorist narratives among those who may be vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization to violence. Public-private partnerships and international cooperation are key to these endeavors, including through the UN and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism. Yet more research is needed in order to bolster our collective abilities to address these emerging threats, including on questions such as when and why consuming online content leads to offline physical harm. The United States, along with key partners, is supporting a project to facilitate more independent research and looks forward to engagement with others on additional opportunities to expand upon this work.

It is critical that all efforts to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism respect human rights, including freedom of expression, religion or belief, and the rule-of-law. In fact, efforts to stifle freedom of expression, religion or belief and other human rights and fundamental freedoms under the guise of counterterrorism are counterproductive, at times providing fuel for terrorist narratives. The international community must recommit to multilateral efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, utilizing whole-of-society approaches that incorporate a broad range of actors.

Concerning a “Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism,” we will listen carefully to delegates’ statements. However, it is critical that the United Nations send united, unambiguous signals when it comes to terrorism; otherwise, we risk some of the progress that we have made.

To close, the United States reiterates its firm condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and reiterates its commitment to work with the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Thank you.